



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CPEC Helping to Improve Teaching and Learning in California

SACRAMENTO — November 7, 2005 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) today announced it has awarded nearly eight million dollars in new grants aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning in California. These grants were awarded to eight partnerships of universities and K-12 education agencies statewide (see attached) and will provide intensive training and on-site coaching for several hundred teachers for three years. The fourth year of the grants requires an evaluation of the impact of that training on student achievement.

"This is a rigorous process intended to understand what really works in professional development and high school reform," said CPEC Executive Director Murray Haberman. "The grants require in-depth research to demonstrate the impact of the professional development on student achievement. This kind of accountability is critical to spending taxpayer dollars wisely on programs that really work."

The grants are part of a long-standing federal program that is now funded under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. CPEC has awarded more than \$75 million in grants to colleges and universities working in partnership with high-need local school districts since 1984. This year's grants focus on the need for students to have stronger reading, writing, and analytical skills in all high school subjects. Known as "academic literacy", these skills often spell the difference between success and failure for students who have mastered basic literacy but who have trouble understanding complex concepts and navigating the language of academic disciplines.

CPEC Chairman Howard Welinsky expressed enthusiasm for the awards. "These grants will provide hundreds of California teachers with expertise and support from colleges and universities that will lead to improved teaching ability and greater academic achievement by students," he said. "This means those students will be better prepared for college and for the high-skill jobs required in today's economy."

More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at www.cpec.ca.gov. For more information about this program or individual projects, contact Karen Humphrey, Administrator, Improving Teacher Quality Program, at 916-445-1504 or khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov.

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***2005 Improving Teacher Quality Grants
California Postsecondary Education Commission***

California State University Bakersfield *in partnership with*

Delano Joint Union High School District

Project Name: Project CALLI: Content Academic Language Literacy Instruction

Amount: \$986,078

California State Polytechnic University Pomona *in partnership with*

El Monte Union High School District

Project Name: Project STELLAR²: Students and Teachers Excelling in Literacy, Language and Academic Reasoning and Reflection

Amount: \$982,197

California State University San Bernardino *in partnership with*

San Bernardino City Unified School District

Project Name: Developing Rigorous Education in the Arts to Motivate Students (DREAMS)

Amount: \$991,328

Humboldt State University *in partnership with*

Konocti Unified School District, other Redwood Area districts, and Sonoma State University

Project Name: Redwood Area Academic Learning Initiative (RAALI)

Amount: \$994,032

University of California Davis *in partnership with*

Grant Joint Union High School District

Project Name: Reading, Thinking, and Writing in History and Science

Amount: \$1,000,000

University of California Irvine *in partnership with*

Lynwood Unified School District

Project Name: Accelerating Academic Literacy: A Cognitive Strategies Approach to Reading and Writing Instruction for Teachers of Secondary English Language Learners

Amount: \$875,020

University of California Irvine *in partnership with*

Santa Ana Unified School District

Project Name: Literacy in the History Classroom

Amount: \$935,948

University of California San Diego *in partnership with*

Los Angeles Unified School District (Local District 6)

Project Name: Access to the Core: Support for Secondary Language Learners

Amount: \$1,000,000

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.